MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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DAREDEVIL®

BORN AGAIN

MAZZUCCHELLI

NO HEARTBEAT. HE IS GONE.

NO--

--NO-- HE CAN'T DIE--

I HAD AN AWFUL DREAM.

EVERYBODY HATED ME.

EVERYBODY TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME.

NO.

THE KINGPIN. HE'S THE ONLY ONE.

THE KINGPIN OF CRIME. HE FOUND OUT MY SECRET IDENTITY. AND IT WASN'T A DREAM--

--THEN SANTA CLAUS STABBED ME WITH A KNIFE AND--

--NO. IT WAS TURK. SMALL TIME HOOD. HE WAS JUST DRESSED LIKE SANTA.

SMALL TIME HOOD. WORKS FOR--

--THE KINGPIN.

NOT A DREAM.

--HE--HE'S ALIVE--

BORN AGAIN

by FRANK MILLER and DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI

MAX SCHEELE	JOE ROSEN	RALPH MACCHIO	JIM SHOOTER
COLORS	LETTERS	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE BREEZE IS **COOL**. SHE'S IN **AMERICA**. KAREN PAGE ALLOWS HERSELF TO **HOPE**.

NOT TOO **OFTEN** SHE WHISPERS THE **NAME** -- QUIETLY, FACING **AWAY** FROM HER COMPANION -- THE NAME THAT **MEANS** HOPE.

MATT.

MATT -- SHE **BE-TRAYED** HIM -- SOLD HIS DEEPEST **SECRET** FOR A **FIX** --

-- TOLD A **MAN** THAT MATT IS **DAREDEVIL** -- AND THE **MAN** TOLD **OTHER** MEN -- AND THE **OTHER** MEN ARE TRYING TO **KILL** KAREN PAGE --

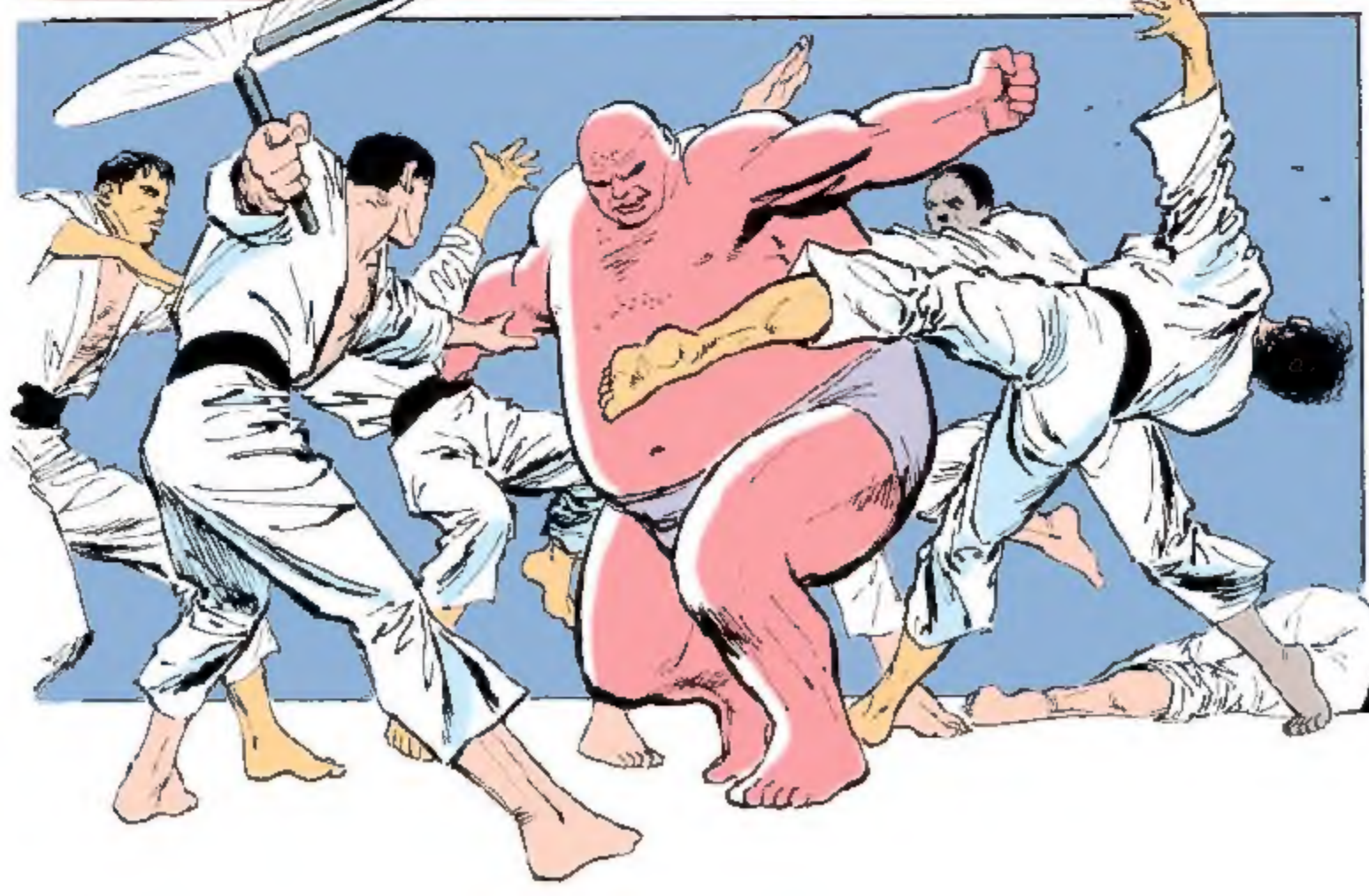
-- BUT SHE'LL **MAKE** IT TO **NEW YORK**. SHE'LL **FIND** MATT BEFORE THE **KILLERS** FIND **HER**.

MATT WILL **SAVE** HER.

HE **HAS** TO.

TOO **OFTEN**, HE THINKS THE **NAME**.

MURDOCK.



HE IS THE **KINGPIN**. HE IS THE **LORD** OF CRIME. HE **DESTROYED** MATT MURDOCK -- **ROBBED** HIM OF HIS **CAREER**, HIS **HOME**, OF **EVERYTHING** THAT CONSTITUTED HIS **LIFE**.

BUT **MURDOCK** IS **ALIVE**. SOMEWHERE.

MURDOCK IS **ALIVE**.

Accepted and agreed on this the 2nd

Franklin Nelson

TOOK THE JOB.

KNEW YE WOULD.

FUNNY--MY HAND SHOOK WHEN I SIGNED. GUESS IT WAS THE SALARY.

HONESTLY, GLORI. I DIDN'T BELIEVE THEY'D PAY ME SO MUCH UNTIL I SAW IT WRITTEN DOWN.

SURE AND YOU DESERVE IT, FOGGY.

IT'S TWICE WHAT MATT AND ME EVER MADE TOGETHER. MATT... HOW LONG'S HE BEEN MISSING NOW?...

ELEVEN DAYS.

AND SIX HOURS.

I don't even THINK of his NAME.

He doesn't EXIST. They CONVINCED me of THAT.

I went LOOKING for him. Talked to a crooked COP who helped FRAME him. They sicced a NURSE the size of your average TRUCK on us. She broke most of the BONES in the cop's BODY.

ME she went LIGHT on. Settled for breaking my FINGERS.

My name is BEN URICH. I'm a REPORTER.

I don't even THINK of his NAME.

WHEN I WAS A WHOLE LOT **YOUNGER**, I WAS STRUCK ACROSS THE EYES AND **BLINDED** BY A PIECE OF RADIOACTIVE **GARBAGE**.

DON'T ASK ME TO EXPLAIN **WHY**, BUT I CAN **SMELL** AND **HEAR** AND **TASTE** BETTER THAN **ANY-BODY**.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO **LEARN** ABOUT **MATT MURDOCK**.

EVERYTHING **ELSE** IN MY LIFE IS **GONE**, EXCEPT THE **LESSON** I LEARNED FROM MY **FATHER**.

NEVER GIVE UP.

NEVER.

FOR **MOST** PEOPLE, **NEW YORK** IS THE **EMPIRE STATE BUILDING** AND THE **STATUE OF LIBERTY**. FOR **KAREN PAGE**, IT'S **PENN STATION**, WHERE SHE FIRST STEPPED OFF THE **TRAIN** FROM NEW ENGLAND. THAT MUST BE WHY SHE ASKED **PAULO** TO DROP HER OFF **HERE**.

SHE'D PAID HER **WAY**--EXACTLY THE WAY HE **WANTED** HER TO. SHE OWES HIM **NOTHING**.

SHE WANTS TO GET **RID** OF HIM. SURE, HE'S GOT THE **JUNK**--AS MUCH AS SHE **WANTS**. BUT THERE'S ONLY **ONE** MAN SHE WANTS TO BE WITH **NOW**--

--SHE'LL EVEN **QUIT** THE JUNK SHE **SWEARS** SHE WILL--

--SO SHE SAYS **GOOD-BYE** TO PAULO WITH A **KISS** AS FINAL **PAY-MENT**.

IT'S THE **LONG** KIND OF KISS. THE KIND SHE **LEARNED** MAKING **MOVIES** FOR PEOPLE LIKE PAULO.

SHE'S A **PRO** ABOUT IT.

IT ISN'T **ENOUGH** FOR HIM.

PENNSYLVANIA STATION

LOCATE *NUKE*, WESLEY.

NUKE... BOSS, YOU ARE NOT *SERIOUS*. PLEASE TO *TELL* ME YOU ARE NOT *SERIOUS*.

NOBODY'S *EVER* USED HIM ON A *DOMESTIC* JOB. HE'S...

I DID NOT INVITE *DEBATE*.

NO, YOU *DON'T* KNOW, BEN. YOU JUST *DON'T*.

LOOK AT YOU-- THEY BROKE YOUR *FINGERS*, HONEY!

THEY'LL *KILL* YOU-- DO YOU KNOW *THAT*? THEY'LL *KILL* YOU AND YOU'LL *DIE* FOR--

DON'T SAY THE *NAME*.

DON'T EVEN *THINK* OF THE *NAME*. IT'S SO VERY *IMPORTANT* THAT WE DON'T EVEN *THINK* OF THE *NAME*.

THEY'VE DONE SOME **WORK** ON ME. THE BROKEN **RIB** IS BACK WHERE IT **BELONGS**. I'M NOT **BLEEDING**.

I'M ONE BIG **BRUISE**. BEST NOT TO PAY **ATTENTION** TO HOW I **FEEL**.

THE MORE I FOCUS **OUTSIDE** MYSELF, THE--

--THAT **STENCH**--EVEN HIS **SWEAT** SMELLS LIKE **CHEAP WINE**--I CAN **TASTE** HIS HANGOVER **WITH** HIM--

--CAN'T **STAND** IT-- MOVE FURTHER **OUT**...

SOUNDS ARE **MUFFLED** BY THE **SNOW**.

KAWW KAWWW

THE **GULLS**. THEY ONLY SOUND LIKE THAT IN THE **MORNING**. COMPLAINING.

BEEP HONK onk HONK BEEP BEEP hon HONNNNNK

LIKE THE WHOLE **CITY'S** COMPLAINING. I'M STILL IN **MANHATTAN**.

NARROW IT **DOWN**.

EVEN PAST **BROTHER GALLO** NEXT TO ME I CAN SMELL THE **NEIGHBORHOOD**. RATS AND **CONCRETE DUST**.

HELL'S KITCHEN. I GREW UP HERE.

BUT WHAT KIND OF **PLACE** AM I IN?

BONG BONG BONG BONG

WHOA.

BONG BONG BONG BONG.

CHURCH BELLS. I'M IN A CHURCH.

MUST BE IN THE BASEMENT. A MISSION.

JUST ME AND THE WINOS.

GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THESE SMELLS.

OKAY--WHO TOOK THE MUSCLES OUT OF MY LEGS?

YOU IDIOT.

MY NAME IS MAGGIE.

YOU'RE STAYING HERE.

HELLO, I'M CALLING FOR FOG--FOR *FRANKLIN NELSON*...

...*MRS.* NELSON--OH, OH I--I'M *SORRY*. IT'S JUST I HAD NO IDEA HE'D GOTTEN *MARRIED*...

...YOU SEE, I USED TO BE HIS *SECRETARY*, MRS. NELSON. HIS AND *MATT MURDOCK'S*...

...COULD I PLEASE *SPEAK* TO FOGGY? I... HE DOESN'T *LIVE* THERE... BUT YOU *SAID*--

--*SEPARATED*... OH, I'M *SORRY*... I NEED--UM... DO YOU HAVE A *NUMBER* WHERE I COULD *REACH* HIM?...

...YES... OH, *THANK* YOU, MA'AM--*THANK* YOU--.

KAREN--KAREN *PAGE*? GOLLY, YOU'RE THE *LAST* PERSON I EXPECTED TO HEAR FROM. HOW'S IT *GOING*?...

...MATT? WELL, MATT'S COME ON *HARD* TIMES, KAREN. IT'S A LONG STORY ...NO, I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS...

LOVE TO SEE YOU, KAREN. HOW LONG ARE YOU IN *TOWN*?... YOU MEAN RIGHT *NOW*? GEE, KAREN, I'M KIND OF TIED *UP*...

...WELL, *SURE*, IF IT'S *IMPORTANT*. WHERE?... BOY, THAT'S A *ROUGH* PART OF *TOWN*. ARE YOU *SURE*?...

...*SURE*, KAREN. FOR *OLD* TIMES, LIKE YOU SAY.

"OLD TIMES"... GEEZ, IT WASN'T *SO* LONG AGO...

DAILY BUGLE

I'VE SEEN THIS HAPPEN *PLENTY* OF TIMES, BEN-- IT NEVER *FAILS* TO MAKE ME *SICK.*

REPORTER GETS HIS *BLOOD* UP FOR A STORY, THREATENS TO *QUIT* IF I DON'T LET HIM *GO* FOR IT-

--THEN SUDDENLY LOSES ALL *INTEREST.*

BY THE WAY-- HOW'S THE *HAND?*

LISTEN, URICH. THERE ARE THINGS YOU JUST DON'T LET *HAPPEN* IN THIS RACKET. NUMBER *ONE* IS YOU *NEVER* GET SCARED AWAY FROM A *STORY*

NOT WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE *WORLD* ON YOUR SIDE

THIS IS *FIVE MILLION READERS'* WORTH OF *POWER* IT CAN DEPOSE *MAYORS.* IT CAN DESTROY *PRESIDENTS.*

AND IT'S BEEN DUE TO GET AIMED AT THE *KINGPIN* FOR *YEARS* NOW BUT IT NEEDS *YOU* TO *DO* IT.

YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T *FIRE* YOU

GET OUT OF MY OFFICE.

JONAH JAM

PUBLISHE

THAT'S A *GOOD* BOY URICH.

YOU *STAY* A GOOD BOY, YOU *REMEMBER* THE KINGPIN'S *WATCHING.*

YOU *REMEMBER* YOU GOT FIVE MORE *FINGERS*

SHE'S WITH ME WHEN THE FEVER HITS

I'M BOILING ALIVE - BUT FOR THE COOL, SOFT CLOTH

HANGING FROM HER NECK...

IT'S A CROSS.

MADE OF GOLD.

RUNNIN' OUT ON ME

JUST SEEING A FRIEND--

THWAK

YOU GO SEE YOUR FRIEND. BUT YOU COME BACK--OR I'LL FIND YOU KAREN PAGE.

YOU'RE MINE NOW.

NO, MORTON I WILL NOT SHOW THIS GARBAGE TO JAMESON YOU WILL GO OUT AND TAKE SOME PICTURES WE CAN USE!

BUT I...

"TOO MILD," HE SAYS, "PUNCH IT UP," HE SAYS

-JUST A PUFF PIECE SIMPLE, STUPID PUFF PIECE AND YOU TAKE THREE HOURS--ON THE FIRST PARA-GRAPH--

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, BEN?

RING

JUST A MINUTE..

The DEADLINE for the MORNING EDITION is always a GOOD time at the NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE.

I get a PHONE CALL.

I'LL TELL YOU THE *PROBLEM*. AN *EX-PRESIDENT* DOES *CARPENTRY* WORK AT A *WELFARE* PROJECT AND SAYS ALL THE *USUAL* STUFF. *NOT* YOUR MAJOR *LITERARY CHALLENGE* --

-- BUT *URICH* HERE CAN'T GET IT *WRITTEN!*

WHO PUT OUR TOP *CRIME* REPORTER ON A PIECE LIKE *THAT*?

COULD YOU SPEAK *UP* -- I CAN'T *HEAR* --

COPY BOY!

IT'S LIEUTENANT *MANOLIS* MR URICH. I BEEN ABLE TO *TALK* FOR A COUPLE *DAYS* NOW -- BUT YOU HAVEN'T *CALLED.*

I M READY TO GIVE WITH MY *STORY*

MR. *URICH* IS *OFF* THE CRIME BEAT. MR. *URICH* WAS KIND ENOUGH TO *TELL* JS THIS. MR *URICH* REQUESTED A *PUFF PIECE*. I *GAVE* MR *URICH* A *PUFF PIECE.*

MR *URICH* HAS TAKEN *THREE HOURS* ON THE FIRST--

I THINK YOU'D BETTER GET OFF THE PHONE, BEN.

I'M SORRY LIEUTENANT. I M BUSY

WHERE'S THAT *COPY BOY*?

I DON'T THINK YOU *HEARD* ME, MR. URICH

I WANT TO *TELL* YOU HOW I HELPED THE *KINGPIN* FRAME *MATT MURDOCK.*

SO NOW HE'S *DEAF. ACES.* WE'RE *THREE MINUTES* FROM A SIX-INCH *BLANK* SPACE ON PAGE *FIVE* AND MR *URICH* GOES *DEAF.*

JAMESON'S GOING TO FRY MY--

SETTLE DOWN, LICHTENSTEIN.

YOU HAD BETTER GET OFF THE PHONE, BEN.

I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY... BY THAT *NAME*, LIEUTENANT.

COPY BOY *DIE* OR *WHAT*?

OH. I GET IT--

--OH NO.

URICH'S BEEN *USELESS* LATELY. DO YOU KNOW THAT? HIS *LAST* PIECE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE THE *ENQUIRER*! *FINCH* HAD TO *REWRITE* IT FROM *SCRATCH*! BUT AT LEAST THERE WERE *WORDS* ON THE *PAPER*!

GET *OFF* THE *PHONE*, BEN.

LIEUTENANT?...

YOU'RE *DEAD*, COPY BOY!

MY *EMPLOYER* WOULD LIKE YOU TO *HEAR* THIS, MR. URICH.

TWO MINUTES! TWO MINUTES!

I AM *DEAD*! I AM *COLD*! I AM *BURIED*!

OUT OF HERE, MORTON. WE GOT A *NEWSPAPER* TO PUT OUT.

HUNDRED BUCKS AND I CAN MAKE MY *RENT*...

FINCH!

WHERE'S *FINCH*?

DEAD! DEAD! DEAD!

GO HOME, MORTON

FIFTY BUCKS MONDAY YOU'LL HAVE SHOTS YOU'LL WANT TO FRAME...

FINCH - I NEED THIS IN TWO MINUTES.

HOSTAGE STORY'S BREAKING WIDE OPEN, ROBBIE. GOT QUOTES FROM THE TERRORISTS THAT'LL SET PAGE ONE ON FIRE! WE'LL SCOOP THE POST!

GIVE IT TO JANSON PLEASE

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, MORTON

YOU WATCH-

I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS, FINCH REMEMBER --TWO MINUTES

I WANT YOU IN MY OFFICE, BEN NOW

JANSON!

I THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, MR URICH.

WHEN I FIRST GOT MY POWERS I LIVED THROUGH A NIGHT OF UTTER AGONY.

MY SENSES WERE WILD. EVERYTHING HURT ME. EVERY SOUND AND SMELL.

A WOMAN CAME TO ME WITH WORDS OF HOPE.

SHE NEVER TOLD ME WHO SHE WAS.

SHE WORE A GOLD CROSS. I TOUCHED IT. MY FINGERS NEVER FORGOT IT.

IT'S THIS CROSS THIS CROSS

WHO COULD LOVE ME SO MUCH .. AND STAY AWAY SO LONG...

WHO ARE YOU, MAGGIE?

STILL HE FEVER CLIMBS SISTER

IT WILL BREAK.

IT WILL.

YOU LOOK--

YOU LOOK GOOD, KAREN

JM . HOW'RE THINGS?

I MEAN...

NUKE IS IN NICAURAGUA

IT HAS TAKEN DAYS TO FIND THIS OUT. DAYS OF REACHING FURTHER AND FURTHER OUT TO THE BRANCHES OF THE ORGANIZATION, THE LEGITIMATE CORPORATIONS, THE MILITARY OFFICES, FEEDING THE VICES OF RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMEN -EVEN A GENERAL.

A GENERAL IN MY POCKET ..THE THOUGHT DANCES BRIEFLY THROUGH THE KINGPIN'S MIND...THAT IS A BRANCH TO BE NURTURED.

IT WILL TAKE DAYS MORE TO ENLIST NUKE. THE MAN'S WILLFULNESS MUST BE OVERCOME--AS MUST HIS SELF DECEPTION OF PATRIOTISM

THESE DAYS MUST NOT BE WASTED

MURDOCK MUST BE DRAWN OUT OF HIDING. PERHAPS A THREAT TO HIS LOVED ONES...

TOO OBVIOUS.

BUT...TO TAKE THAT SMALL SHRED OF HIMSELF THAT HE STILL OWNS - TO FLAIL HIM WITH IT

SNAP

THE CRIME LORD SUMMONS A MAN WHO SPECIALIZES IN PSYCHOTICS --

-- AND ALWAYS OFFERS AN EXCELLENT SELECTION.

I swear it took FOREVER..

I'VE SPOKEN WITH YOUR DOCTOR, BEN. HE SAYS THAT BANDAGE WAS SUPPOSED TO COME OFF YESTERDAY.

I WANT YOU TO TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF. THIS IS THE NUMBER OF A PSYCHIATRIST.

.. FOREVER .

NO, I MEAN IT YOU LOOK GREAT...

, Nick GURGLED like a CLOGGED DRAIN, somewhere in the MIDDLE of it he caught a single raspy BREATH .

NO SMOKING IN THE ELEVATOR, MAN

, one breath and it was so very DESPERATE. .

TEMPERATURE, . MUST BE AROUND A HUNDRED AND THREE NOW..

, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET... FOR SWIMMING IN THE EAST RIVER . SLEEPING IN THE STREET...

PNEUMONIA... STUPID WAY TO DIE

KAREN - WHAT HAPPENED?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK, FOGGY

...and finally, the RATTLE,

It took forever too.

I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW ABOUT--NO, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN MY MOVIES.

LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'VE MESSED UP MY LIFE ABOUT AS BADLY AS I *COULD*. LET'S JUST...

I'M A *JUNKIE* AND I'VE GOT TO FIND *MATT* OR I'LL BE *MURDERED*.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR *MOUTH*, KAREN?

THAT'S *PAULO*. THE *MAN* I'M WITH. HE'S PRETTY AWFUL.

LIKE TO GET MY *HANDS* ON THAT RAT--

DON'T-- JUST *DON'T*, FOGGY

I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE *MATT* IS. HE I CAN'T TELL YOU *WHY*, BUT HE'S THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN *SAVE* ME

MATT'S *DISAPPEARED*, KAREN. A *LOT* HAS HAPPENED.

OUR *LAW FIRM* WENT OUT OF *BUSINESS*, *MATT* --WELL, MATT'S BEEN ACTING *CRAZY*. FOR SOME TIME NOW. THEN HE WAS CHARGED WITH *CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT*.

NOT *MATT* NO.

IT WAS A *FRAME*. BY *GANGSTERS*. I THINK. WE DID OUR BEST TO *FIGHT* IT-- BUT WE *LOST*. MATT WAS *DIS-BARRED* FROM PRACTICING *LAW*.

THEN HIS *HOUSE* BLEW UP AND MATT *VANISHED*.

OH, *NO*-- OH, *FOGGY* --IT--

--IT'S ALL MY *FAULT!*

TELL ME WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT, KAREN.

NOTHING JUST TALKING LIKE A JUNKIE. DOESN T MEAN ANYTHING.

LOOK, I BETTER *GO*.

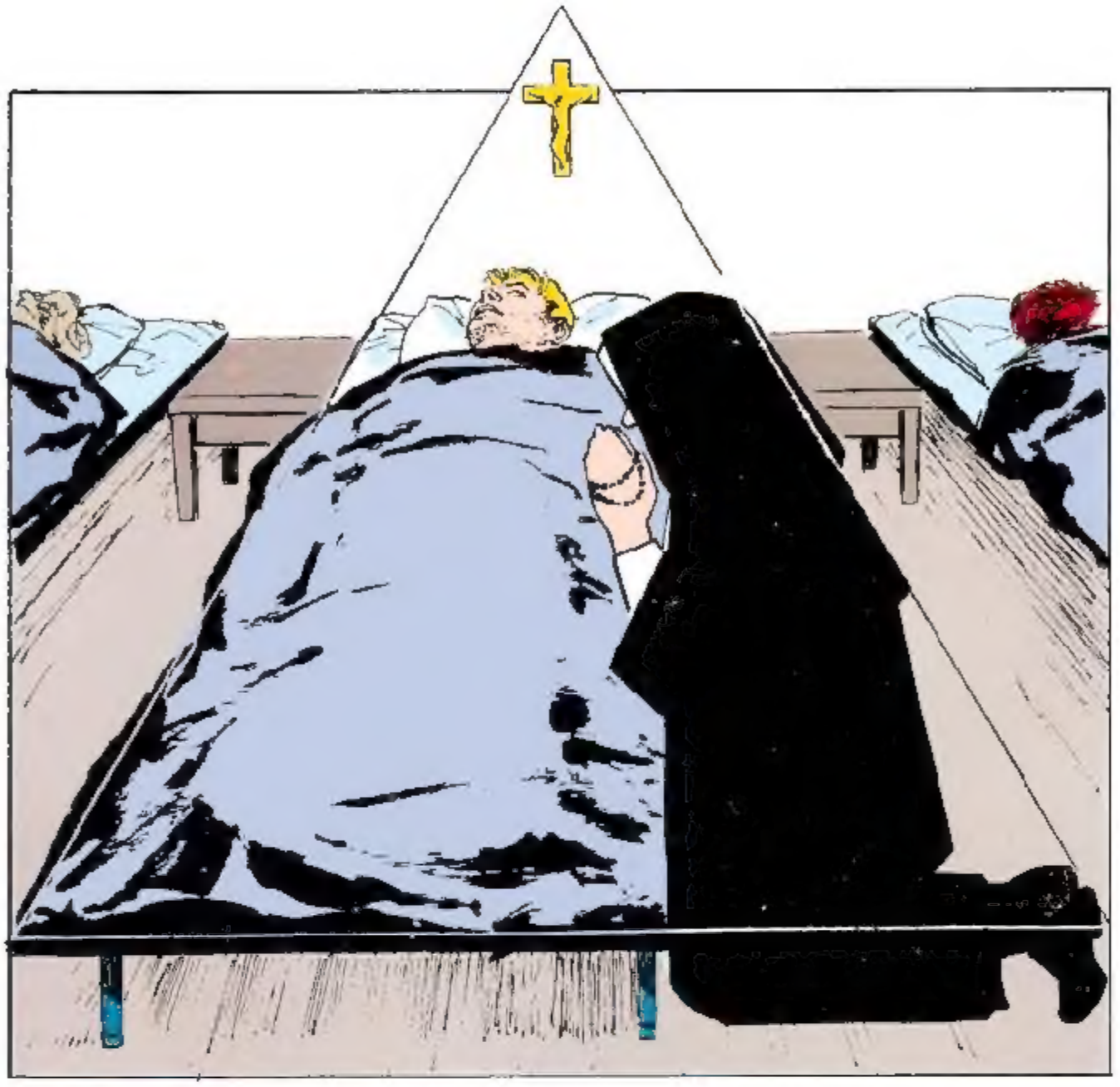
BACK TO THE GUY WHO *PUNCHED* YOU ? NO.

YOU'RE COMING HOME WITH *ME*, KAREN

NO FOGGY, YOU'RE *SWEET*, BUT *NO*. PAULO --HE'LL *KILL* YOU. HE'LL KILL *BOTH* OF US.

I WON'T *TAKE* NO FOR AN ANSWER KAREN. YOU AND ME, WE RE *FAMILY*.

MATT'S FAMILY.



THE FEVER **GROWS** IN HIM. NO **EARTHLY** FORCE CAN STOP IT. HE HAS LOST TOO MUCH **BLOOD**. HIS BODY CANNOT **FIGHT**.

HE WILL **DIE**.

BUT HE HAS SO VERY MUCH TO **DO**, MY LORD.

HIS SOUL IS **TROUBLED**.

BUT IT IS A **GOOD** MAN'S SOUL, MY LORD.

HE NEEDS ONLY TO BE SHOWN YOUR **WAY**. THEN HE WILL **RISE** AS YOUR **OWN** AND BRING **LIGHT** TO THIS POISONED CITY. HE WILL BE AS A SPEAR OF **LIGHTNING** IN YOUR **HAND**, MY LORD.

IF I AM TO BE **PUNISHED** FOR PAST **SINS**, SO **BE** IT.

IF I AM TO BE **CAST** INTO **HELL**, SO **BE** IT.

BUT **SPARE** HIM.

SO MANY **NEED** HIM.

HEAR MY **PLEA**.

...MATT MURDOCK.

DOWNTOWN...

COSTUMES

MELVIN POTTER PROPRIET

I DON'T *LIKE* IT, I KNOW WHO YOU *WORK* FOR, FELIX.

AND THE *KINGPIN* IS NEVER UP TO ANYTHING *GOOD*.

WHAT IS THERE NOT TO *LIKE*, POTTER? YOU CONSTRUCT *COSTUMES*. I AM HERETOWITH *COMMISSIONING* FROM YOURSELF A *COSTUME*.

SAID COSTUME BEING ONE YOU ARE INFINITELY *FAMILIAR* WITH-- DURING SUCH *TIME FRAME* AS *BEFORE* YOU DID *RENUNCIATE* YOUR STATUS AS A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE *CRIMINAL* CLASS TO OPEN THIS *SHOP* WITHIN WHICH WE NOW *CONVERSE*.

SPEAKING OF THIS MOST NEATLY *CUSTODIATED* ESTABLISHMENT, WE WILL SUMMARILY EXECUTE ITS PREMATURE *DEMOLITION*--

--NOT TO MENTION THE *REMOVEMENT* OF YOUR MOST VALUED *BODY PARTS*--

--SHOULD YOU PERCHANCE *FAIL* TO RENDER UNTO US A *PERFECT DUPLICATE* OF THE *UNIFORM* OF A CERTAIN *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*.

A HEARTBEAT CAN TELL YOU A LOT.

MINE, FOR INSTANCE, HAS SLOWED DOWN *CONSIDERABLY* IN THE PAST FEW HOURS...

...EVER SINCE THE FEVER BROKE.

IT'S A PLEASURE JUST TO SIT AND LISTEN TO IT.

GOD HAS BEEN MERCIFUL TO THAT BOY.

GOD IS JUST, SISTER.

MAGGIE'S HEART IS JUST TO MY RIGHT. IT'S IN GREAT SHAPE. SHE'S GOT A LOT OF YEARS LEFT.

AND THE TENSION HAS GONE OUT OF HER SWEAT. SHE CARRIES THE SAME SCENT SHE BROUGHT TO MY HOSPITAL ROOM, YEARS AGO.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

NOT YET. BUT I WILL BE--- THANKS TO YOU.

IT'S A PLEASANT SCENT.

SO MUCH LIKE MY OWN.

GIVE YOUR THANKS TO THE LORD.

MAGGIE...

...ARE YOU MY MOTHER?

OF COURSE NOT, CHILD.

A HEARTBEAT CAN TELL YOU A LOT.

HERS JUST JUMPED.

SHE'S LYING.

MILTON19